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....

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

✻ 1937. ✻

BY

H. J. PHILLIPS, B.SC., M.D., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,

— AND —

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

TO THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

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BOROUGH OF ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

HEALTH AND BUILDING COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Alderman SHEARD, J.P.

Deputy Chairman :

Councillor HAGUE,

The MAYOR, Alderman Mrs. HEGINBOTTOM,
Councillors ANDERTON, ARNOLD, FARLEY, FLOWERS,
GANTLEY, GREEN, HANNAN, IBBOTSON, WHIT-
WORTH, J.P., Mrs. WILLIAMSON, and WRIGHT.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Alderman (Mrs.) HEGINBOTTOM.

Deputy Chairman :

Councillor Mrs. WILLIAMSON.

The MAYOR,

Councillors ANDERTON, ARNOLD, FARLEY, FLOWERS,
GREENWOOD, HANNAN, OLDHAM, WRIGHT, and
Mr. RALPHS

TOWN HALL CHAMBERS,
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE,
4th April, 1938.

To the Mayor and Council of the
Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1937.

This year has again been a busy one for your Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees.

Your Health Committee has been largely concerned with its slum clearance programme and the problems of re-housing displaced tenants, the clearing up of the old sites, and the very difficult task of selecting new sites for extension of your housing scheme. A good deal of this work has now been taken on by your Housing Committee.

The continued occurrence of cases of infectious disease, especially diphtheria, has been very worrying. Whereas your Committee has adopted every measure likely to help in combating the outbreak, the general public has been anything but helpful.

Two extensive and energetic attempts to immunise the susceptible population have been a failure.

This public lethargy during the last two years has been mainly responsible for the occurrence of 369 cases of diphtheria, with nine deaths, and an expenditure of £4,369 in hospital maintenance fees alone.

The incidence of, and death rate from, respiratory diseases still remain far too high at all ages and no improvement is likely to take place until some determined effort is made to reduce the smoke pall which hangs over the town continuously.

It is unfortunate that Ashton suffers not only from its own smoke nuisance, but also from that of its larger neighbours, but I fear little will come of lodging complaints against adjoining districts until something is done to put our own town in order, and, much as I regret to say it, nothing is being done towards this end.

With reference to your Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, in this connection things are certainly somewhat brighter.

The services offered to expectant mothers, to young children and to mothers suffering from post-natal disability have been extended, and are being used to advantage.

The salaried Midwives' Service is now in operation and is working smoothly.

I would ask you to give very careful consideration to every section of the report, and particularly to keep in mind those matters which affect the general standard of health of the whole community, among the most important of which are, smoke abatement, housing, and supervision of foods.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Council for all the support that has been given to the undertakings of the Health Department and express my gratitude to all the members of the staff for their co-operation and loyal support during the year, and particularly to Dr. Evans and Mr. Handforth, Chief Sanitary Inspector, without whose willing and arduous work, much that has been achieved would have been well nigh impossible.

I am,

Yours obediently,

H. J. PHILLIPS.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Authority :—

MEDICAL.

H. J. Phillips, B.Sc., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
 Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer,
 Maternity and Child Welfare Officer, Superintendent
 of Infectious Diseases Hospitals.

Mary Evans, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
 Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Assistant School
 Medical Officer, Assistant Medical Officer for
 Maternity and Child Welfare.

SANITARY INSPECTORS.

C. Sykes Handforth, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,
 Chief Sanitary Inspector, Chief Inspector Meat
 and Other Foods, etc.

Thomas C. Ward, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,
 Additional Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat
 and other Foods, etc,

H. Hunter, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,
 Additional Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat
 and other Foods, etc.

G. G. Don, C.R.S.I., C.R.S.A., (Scotland),
 Additional Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat
 and other Foods, etc.

Clerks.—C. Sharples, A. Hartley, O. M. Roberts.

HEALTH VISITORS.

Mrs. Parkinson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor.

Mrs. E. Coffey, S.C.M. Health Visitor.

Miss S. A. Hawcroft, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 Health Visitor's Cert. R.S.I. Health Visitor.

Miss Winifred Chamberlain, S.R.N., S.C.M.
 Health Visitor's Cert. R.S.I. Health Visitor.

Miss W. Mills, S.R.N., S.C.M.,
 Health Visitors Cert. R.S.I. Health Visitor.

(resigned 31/8/37).

HOSPITAL.

Miss Hollis, S.R.N., Matron of Infectious Diseases
 Hospital.

One Staff Nurse.

Two Probationer Nurses

REPORT.

Section A—Statistics & Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in Acres)	2,981
Registrar General's Estimate of Population, (1937)...	48,810
Population (Census 1931)	51,573
Number of Inhabited Houses (1937)	14,540
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	12,484
Number of families or separate occupiers (1931)	13,561
" " " (1921)	12,370
Rateable Value	£247,572
Sum represented by a penny rate	£945

The chief industries are Cotton Spinning, Engineering, (National Gas Engine Co.), Tool making, Iron and Brass Founding, Brewing and Coal Mining.

The following table shews the extent of unemployment in the area covered by our Exchange, viz:—Ashton-under-Lyne, Hurst, Dukinfield, Audenshaw, Waterloo and Limehurst.

Ministry of Labour.

Ashton-under-Lyne Employment Exchange, Unemployment Figures for 1937.

MONTH.	MEN	BOYS,	WOMEN,	GIRLS.	TOTAL				
January 25 ..	3194	...	69	...	1110	...	93	...	4766
Feb. 22...	3010	...	51	...	957	...	39	...	4057
March 15...	3039	...	34	...	933	...	49	...	4055
April 19...	2795	...	48	...	913	...	46	...	3802
May 24...	2650	...	51	...	1082	...	61	...	3844
June 21...	2769	...	39	...	882	...	31	...	3661
July 26...	2651	...	26	...	893	...	34	...	3604
August 23...	2739	...	55	...	853	...	82	...	3729
Sept. 13...	2450	...	36	...	980	...	50	...	3516
October 18...	2541	...	27	...	1062	...	42	...	3672
Novem. 15...	2735	...	54	...	1346	...	77	...	4212
Dec. 13...	2868	...	48	...	1388	...	65	...	4369
Monthly									
Average ...	2907	...	45	...	1033	...	56	...	3941

The monthly average for the last four years was as follows:-

Monthly average for 1934	7123
" " 1935	6116
" " 1936	5116
" " 1937	3941

I pointed out in my last report the steady decrease in the unemployment figures for the combined district; it will be noted that there was a still further improvement during 1937.

(2) Vital Statistics:—

Live Births:

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate ...	586	296	290
Illegitimate...	34	16	18
Total	620	312	308

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

12·7

Still Births... 28 17 11

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births

43

Deaths794 404 390

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.....

16·2*

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

	Deaths.	Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	0	
Other puerperal causes	4	
Total	4	6·17

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1000 live births

Legitimate infants per 1,000

legitimate live births

Illegitimate infants per 1,000

illegitimate live births.....

58

Deaths from Measles (all ages).....

0

 " Whooping Cough (all ages)

0

 " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...

5

 " Cancer (all ages)

89

Population, 48,810.

Per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

Maternal Mortality Rate.

	Live Birth. Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death-rate from Cancer.	Per 1,000 Live Births.	Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rate of Deaths under One year per 1,000 Live Births.
Mean of 5 years							
1932-1936...	12.6	13.7	0.59	1.92	5.62	5.34	69
Year 1936 ...	12.3	14.6	0.60	1.75	3.26	3.09	62
1937 ...	12.7	*16.2	0.94	1.82	6.45	6.17	62

*Increase or
Decrease
in 1937 on—
5 years'
Average*

1932-1936...	+0.1	+2.5	+0.35	+0.1	+0.83	+0.83	-7
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Previous

Year... +0.4 +1.6 +0.34 +0.07 +3.19 +3.08 -0

* 1937 Adjusted Death Rate (comparability factor 1.07) = 17.3 per 1,000.

Period.	Population.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1891	40,462	31.8	24.9
1901	43,890	24.8	22.9
1911	45,179	23.0	17.2
1921	44,360	19.6	13.5
1931	51,573	14.7	13.7

The following table shows the improvement in the Rate of Infant Mortality, per 1000 births, during recent years in the Borough:

1914	—	183	1926	—	102
1915	—	167	1927	—	90
1916	—	116	1928	—	69
1917	—	101	1929	—	107
1918	—	120	1930	—	58
1919	—	118	1931	—	69
1920	—	119	1932	—	84
1921	—	105	1933	—	64
1922	—	91	1934	—	71
1923	—	81	1935	—	66
1924	—	77	1936	—	62
1925	—	92	1937	—	62

Section B—General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

(a)—Laboratory Facilities:—

These remain as previously.

The clinical material, the main item of which is throat swabs, goes to the District Infirmary, which has now a very satisfactory and efficient laboratory service for this work.

Milks, waters and foods are still sent to the Manchester Public Health Laboratories, or, in the case of chemical examinations, to Mr. Melling, F.I.C., Borough Analyst, The Cliff, Manchester.

(b)—Ambulance Facilities :—

For cases of infectious disease a motor ambulance, kept at the town's yard, and a separate motor van for removing infectious bedding, etc.

For non-infectious and accident cases, two motor ambulances at the Central Police Station.

This Ambulance Service is quite adequate and satisfactory in its working. The services for infectious and accident cases are free of charge.

Private individuals may arrange for the use of the police ambulances at a fixed charge.

(c)—Nursing in the Home :—

General—The District Nursing Association provides three Nurses for general nursing. A grant of £50 per annum is made by the Town Council in consideration of the fact that they visit and attend all notified cases of Pneumonia.

During the year 118 cases have been so attended.

The number of visits paid to these cases was 1868.

Infectious Diseases.—No nursing is provided for these in their homes in the ordinary course of events, but, as last year, at certain periods during 1937, there being no hospital

accommodation for some of the cases of diphtheria, arrangements were made with the District Nursing Association to supply special nurses for this purpose. Again, as an emergency measure, these arrangements worked quite well.

The patients were attended by their own family doctors and, in cases where such treatment caused financial hardship, your Health Committee recommended that the people be helped to pay the doctor's bill up to a maximum amount of three guineas per case.

This latter arrangement was sanctioned by the Ministry of Health as a temporary measure for twelve months, under Section 177 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The Council has three Maternity and Child Welfare Centres serving the West End, the East End and the Hurst areas of the Borough. The School Clinic is centrally situated in Water Street.

Arrangements are made between the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and the Education Committee for children under five years who are attending the Infant Welfare Centre to attend the Ophthalmic, the Orthopaedic, the Dental and the Minor Ailments Clinics where such attendances are indicated.

There are also similar arrangements for Expectant and Nursing Mothers to receive Dental treatment.

The Lancashire County Council holds its Tuberculosis Dispensary at Warrington Street, and its Venereal Diseases Clinic at the District Infirmary.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Centre	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Richmond Street	Infant Consultations M and C.W. 9-30-12 Sunlight School 2-5.	Sunlight M. and C.W. 9-30-12	Sunlight School 2-5	Social Class M. and C.W. 2-30-4-30	Sunlight M. and C.W. 9-30-12 Ante-Natal Alt'nate Fridays 2-5	
Scotland Street		Infant Cons't's M. and C.W. 2-5	Social Class M. and C.W. 2-30-5 Post Natal 2-0 p.m. 1st Wed.		Ante-Natal Alt'nate Fridays 2-5	
Ormonde Street			Infant Cons't's & Social Class M. and C.W. 2-5			
Water Street (School Clinic)	* Dental Casuals 9-30-12 Minor Ailments 2-4-30		Ophthalmic 10-12 and 2-30-4-30	Minor Ailments 2-4-30	Orthopaedic 1st Friday 10-12 and 2-5	Ophthalmic 10-12
Warrington Street (Tuberculosis)		11-0 a.m. ** 2-30 and 6-30 1st Tuesday			10 a.m.	
D'urbie's (Vener'l Dis'es)	6-7		3-4	6-7-30		

* Other than Monday morning by appointment.

** The 11-0 a.m. session on Tuesday is for Mossley cases.

(c) Hospitals.**(i) Borough Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Fountain Street, Ashton.**

During the year 153 scarlet fever patients were treated :—

	Ashton Cases.	Outside Cases.	Total.
Remaining in Hospital, 1st January, 1937	16	0	16
Admitted during the year	133	4	137
Discharged during the year	138	3	141
Died during the year	0	0	0
Remaining in Hospital, 1st January, 1938	11	1	12

Districts from which outside cases were received :—

Limehurst 3 Failsworth 1

(ii) Ashton-under-Lyne and District Joint Smallpox Hospital.

This is situated at Hartshead, three miles distant from the Ashton Town Hall.

One case was admitted from the Borough of Hyde during the year. This case was of the major type, but discrete. Prompt vaccination of immediate contacts prevented further spread.

No smallpox occurred in the Ashton Borough.

(iii) The Lake Hospital, Mellor Road,

This is controlled by the Public Assistance Committee of the Lancashire County Council.

An arrangement exists between the Ashton Council and the Lake Hospital Committee whereby patients are admitted to the Maternity Unit for normal confinements.

During the year arrangements were also made for the admission of emergency cases at any time of the day or night to this unit, where, in the opinion of the doctor attending, hospital treatment is urgently indicated.

During 1936 you started a post natal clinic, I pointed out that this service was incomplete without hospital accommodation for those patients where operative, or other forms of treatment, not possible to carry out at the clinic, was indicated.

During 1937 arrangements were completed with the authorities at the Lake Hospital for treatment of this type of case.

With reference to the working of this maternity unit, the following figures will be of interest, which, in my opinion, reflect great credit on the institution.

YEAR.	No. of Maternity cases admitted to unit.	No. of Maternal Deaths.	Percentage Maternal Mortality.
1935	519	4	0·77
1936	556	5	0·90
1937	702	5	0·71

Table showing the classification of the accommodation for SICK, MATERNITY AND MENTAL CASES, and the number of beds occupied on the 31st December, 1937.

Classification of Wards.	Number of Wards.	BEDS.						Total.	
		Men.		Women.		Children (under 16 years of age.)			
		Pro- vided. (3)	Occu- pied. (4)	Pro- vided. (5)	Occu- pied. (6)	Pro- vided. (7)	Occu- pied. (8)	Pro- vided. (9)	Occu- pied. (10)
(1)	(2)								
1. Medical	9	112	93	130	126	..	4	242	223
2. Surgical									
3. Chronic Sick	Included				..	..	..	..	..
4. Children	1	..	..	..	..	28	22	28	22
5. Venereal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7. Isolation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8. Maternity	2	..	..	40	34	..	..	40	34
9. Mental									
(a) Lunacy Act, 1890	1 Male	55	61	..	..	..	2	55	63
i. Short stay	1 Female	..	..	65	48	..	1	65	49
ii. Long stay	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10. Mental Defectives	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11. Other	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	14	167	154	235	208	28	29	430	391

(iv) District Infirmary, Darnton Road.

No. of Beds.....200

The total number of patients treated at the Hospital from all districts was :

In-patients3,385

Out-patients7,599

Of the patients treated, 1,221 in-patients, and 3,094 out-patients, were residents of Ashton.

Arrangements exist between the Borough Council and the District Infirmary for the admission and treatment of cases of puerperal infection.

An annual grant of 200 guineas is made by the Ashton Town Council towards the funds of the Institution.

Report upon Maternity and Child Welfare Work.

Notification of Births Act, 1907 and 1915 :—

Number of live births notified	620
" " Stillbirths notified.....	28

Lake Hospital.

Sixty-three mothers were confined at the Lake Hospital under the Council's Scheme. Average duration of stay 14 days.

District Infirmary.

Cases of puerperal infection are received into this hospital under arrangements made between the Hospital and the Council.

During the year, two such cases were admitted.

There are 9 Midwives practising in the area. Four of these are salaried Midwives.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Qualification</i>
Barrett, Lillie (Mrs.)	280, Katherine Street. 'Phone—ASH. 2119.	C.M.B.
Egerton, B. J. (Mrs.)	57, Ladbroke Road, 'Phone—ASH. 2063.	C.M.B.
Ibbotson, A. E., (Mrs.)	41, Alexandra Street, 'Phone—ASH. 2033.	C.M.B.
Wood, Letty, (Mrs.)	209, Stockport Road, 'Phone—ASH. 2107.	C.M.B.

The five private Midwives are :—

Bancroft, A., (Mrs.)	2, Springfield Street, Hurst Cross.	C.M.B.
Harrop, Agnes (Mrs.)	111, Stamford Sq., Cockbrook.	C.M.B.
Jenkinson, R., (Mrs.)	"Melrose Place," 47, Elizabeth St.,	C.M.B.
Jones, Louisa (Miss)	43, Arundel Street, Cockbrook,	C.M.B.
Sidebottom, Sarah A. (Mrs.)	261, Smallshaw Lane,	C.M.B.

Compensation to Midwives :—

This scheme was fully reported on in 1934.

Under the Midwives' Act, 1936, the Council now pays, under the form of a county rate, for salaried midwives to serve the district, so this scheme of compensation has been abandoned.

Maternal Mortality:—

This matter continues to receive the earnest attention of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

All cases of Maternal Deaths, Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia are personally investigated by me and in the case of Maternal Deaths full reports are sent by me to the Ministry of Health.

The arrangements for the admission of cases to the Maternity Unit of the Lake Hospital has already been mentioned.

The maternal mortality figure for the year has been most disappointing.

Working on the total notified births, it shows a figure of 7·7 per 1,000 births. This, after the good figure of last year, at first sight may seem discouraging, but, on analysis, this sense of despair clears up somewhat.

Altogether there were five deaths, but two of these, and strange to say occurring within a few weeks of each other, were from accidents of a most unusual nature and, furthermore, accidents which could be neither foreseen or forestalled. These two women died suddenly, after normal deliveries, from pulmonary embolism.

A death from pulmonary embolism means a death from a clot of blood which settles in the large vessels of the chest. It is possible for this condition to occur after any ordinary operation, but is extremely rare and, in maternity cases, rarer still.

In one of these two cases the accident occurred very shortly after a normal birth and, in the other case, who was delivered in hospital, the patient was stepping into a cab in the act of leaving the hospital, after an uneventful lying-in period, when she collapsed and died in a few minutes.

In previous reports I have pointed out how figures concerning a small number of cases may convey quite an erroneous idea of the true state of affairs, apart from the two unfortunate cases, we should have had a mortality figure of 4·6, which, though still leaving much to be desired, compares fairly favourably with the mortality as a whole.

Maternal Deaths :—

(a) Number of women who died in, or consequence of childbirth :—

(1) From Sepsis.....	0
(2) From other causes	5

(b) Number of these cases who died :—

(1) At home	1
(2) In hospital	4

Ante-Natal Clinic :—

Fifty-three sessions were held during the year.

Three-hundred and eleven Expectant Mothers made 1740 attendances at the Clinics during the year.

Five-hundred and twenty-five visits were made by the Health Visitors to expectant mothers in their homes.

Sixty-three mothers were confined at the Lake Hospital.

The defects revealed by the examinations at the Ante-Natal Clinic were :—

Defective Teeth	134
Anæmia.....	21
Contracted Pelvis	6
Oedema.....	9
Varicose Veins	22
Albuminuria	13
Respiratory Diseases	25
Heart Disease	8
Gynaecological Disorders	10
Other Defects	12
Trace Albumin.....	17
Dyspepsia.....	7
Breast Disorders.....	5
Deformities	3

Sixty-three Expectant Mothers received dental treatment at the Clinic.

Expectant mothers can obtain milk at cost price or less for their own consumption. Your Committee has also arranged for eggs to be supplied in necessitous cases. Both these advantages are much appreciated by the mothers and there are clinical indications that these extra nourishments do good.

The work in the ante-natal clinics has increased greatly during the last two years. A glance at the appended table will show this quite well.

You will note that from 1933 to 1935 inclusive the work was almost stationary.

In 1936 there was an increase of 52 cases ; this, I attribute mainly to the better standard of home visiting by the Health Visitors. In 1937 there was another increase of 52 over the previous year. During 1937 the home visiting standard was well maintained, in spite of shortage of staff, further the salaried midwives have added a considerable number of attendances during the latter part of the year.

If this excellent work continues to show the same rate of increase in 1938 and succeeding years, it will be necessary to increase the number of ante-natal sessions held during the year.

Table showing number of patients attending Ante-Natal Clinics since 1933 : —

Year.	No. attending.
1933	210
1934	210
1935	207
1936	259
1937	311

Post Natal Clinic.

Fifty-two patients attended this Clinic during 1937.

The Clinic is held on the first Wednesday in the month, at Enville House.

Last year I pointed out the necessity of better hospital accommodation for women suffering from any post-natal disability.

During 1937 you made arrangements with the Lake Hospital for dealing with such cases. Up to the present there have not been any in-patients under this scheme, but, now that the facilities obtain, I feel that this clinic will fulfil a long needed want.

Home Visiting.

The standard of home visiting by the Health Visitors has been well maintained during the year, as will be shown by a study of the appended table. The actual total is down compared with 1936, but it must be remembered that Nurse Mills

resigned at the end of August to take up another appointment and, for the remainder of the year, we have been short handed, owing to the fact that we could not get any suitable applicants for the post on either a permanent or a temporary basis.

Year.	Total No. of Visits.
1934.....	6720
1935.....	7025
1936.....	9579
1937.....	8498

Details of home visits during 1937 :—

Type of visit.

To expectant mothers (first visits)	222
To children under 1 year (first visits) ...	586
To expectant mothers (total visits)	525
To children under 1 year (total visits)	3459
To Children between 1 & 5 years (total visits).....	4408
To Still Births	28
To boarded-out children	15
To Deaths under 1 year	39
To Infectious Cases.....	64
Grand total	8538

Child Welfare Centres.

This work was well maintained during the year; details are appended.

Consultations held.....	145
Attendances at Consultations	3828
Number of Weighings of Children	9871

Total Number of Attendances at all Centres during the year :—

- (1) By Children under 1 year of age 10510
- (2) „ between the ages of 1 and 5 yrs. 3651

Total Number of Children who attended at the Centres for the first time during the year, and who, on the date of their first attendance, were :—

(1) Under 1 year of age	403
(2) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years.....	123

Total number of children who attended at the Centres during the year, and who, at the end of the year, were :—

(1) Under 1 year of age.....	281
(2) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years.....	531

The scheme of examining the three years old children was continued during the year as in 1936.

Instead of having a considerable increase, as one would expect, the actual number of children presented for examination was less than last year. Out of a possible 620, only 133 took advantage of the service, as against 149 out of a possible 634 in the previous twelve months.

Instructional and Social Classes

This section of the service continued its good work during the year.

The best thanks of all concerned are extended to the voluntary workers, whose valuable and willing help is so much appreciated.

Assisted Milk Scheme.

During the year, 18004 packets of milk were bought at the Welfare Centres, 9101 were sold at half price and 1683 were given free under the Council's Assisted Milk Scheme.

The net cost to the Council amounted to £381 19s. 5d.

The following conditions were found among 613 confinements investigated by the Health Visitors.

Stillbirths	28
Difficult Confinements	44
Maternal Complications	26
Hæmorrhage	8
Premature Births.....	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	4
Cæsarean Section	4
Others	9
Phlegmasia Alba Dolens.....	3
Spina Bifida	1

Still Births.

Under the Notification of Births Act, 1915, all still births occurring after the 28th week of pregnancy must be notified to the Medical Officer of Health,

The Births and Death Registration Act, 1926, makes further provision for investigation, registration, and the burial of still births.

The number of still births notified and investigated during the year was 28.

The investigation of these cases revealed that :—

- 20 occurred at full-term.
- 5 occurred at the seventh month.
- 3 occurred at the eighth month.
- 26 were legitimate.
- 2 were illegitimate.
- 16 occurred in Hospital.
- 12 occurred at home.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum :—

- Number of cases notified 5
- Number of cases in which vision was unimpaired... 5

Puerperal Pyrexia :—

- Number of cases notified22
- One case was removed to Hospital.

Puerperal Fever :—

- Number of cases notified 3
- One case was removed to Hospital.

Eye Clinic :—

Eight children were referred from the Welfare Centres to the Eye Clinic for consultation and treatment of eye defects.

Minor Ailments Clinic :—

This is a very valuable aid to the Maternity and Child Welfare work in cases of troublesome skin diseases and minor injuries. During the year, 55 children were referred to the School Clinic for treatment. The parents seem to appreciate the services thus offered to them.

Dental Clinic :—

The total number attending the Dental Clinic from the Welfare Centres is as follows :—

- Children 24
- Expectant Mothers 63

Boarded-out Children.

Administration of Part I. of the Children's Act, 1908, as amended by Part V. of the Children and Young Persons' Act, 1932.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) Number of Persons on the Register who were receiving Children for reward at the end of the year..... | 2 |
| (b) Number of Children on the Register at the end of the year..... | 2 |
| (c) Number of Infant Protection Visitors at the end of the year who were Health Visitors | 4 |

Orthopædic Clinic.

Infant Welfare Children requiring Orthopædic treatment are seen by the Visiting Orthopædic Surgeon at the School Clinic.

The following are the defects for which 83 children attended for treatment.

Minor Rachitic deformities	26
Infantile Paralysis.....	3
Deformities.....	49
Others	5
Total.....	83

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers

Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.

These cases are attended to by the Public Assistance Committee at the Lake Hospital and Darnton House.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

The Council, as Local Supervising Authority under the Nursing Homes Registration Act 1927, is responsible for the supervision of all such homes in its district.

There are two in the Borough, one of them being registered during the year.

Supervision is maintained by personal visits of inspection by the Medical Officer of Health.

Neo-Natal Deaths (under 1 month):—

Causes	0—1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total
Cardiac failure ...	2	-	-	-	2
Premature Birth...	5	-	1	1	7
Marasmus	1	-	-	-	1
Convulsions	1	-	1	1	3
Atelectasis	2	-	-	-	2
Injury at Birth ...	1	-	-	-	1
Enteritis	-	-	1	-	1
Internal					
Obstruction	1	-	-	-	1
Internal					
Hæmorrhage	1	-	-	-	1
Pulmonary					
Thrombosis	1	-	-	-	1
Bronchial					
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	1
	<hr/> 15	<hr/> -	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 21
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant Deaths (1—12 months)

Causes :—

Asphyxia—Convulsions	1
Acute Bronchitis	1
Broncho-Pneumonia	6
Marasmus	2
Asphyxia from overlaying.....	1
Chronic Bronchitis	1

Total.....12

Artificial Sunlight Clinic.

One-hundred and thirty-five children made 2032 attendances.

Complaints :—

Debility	8
Rickets	102
Anaemia... ..	12
Bronchitis	3
Others	10

Total..... 135

Convalescent Treatment.

This scheme has been discussed before. One child was sent to a Convalescent Home during the year.

Section C—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply in the Ashton-under-Lyne Area during the Year 1937.

The supply is controlled by a Joint Board, but close co-operation exists between this department and the official department of the Board. In any difficulties that have arisen from time to time I have always been able to depend on the valuable help of the Water Engineer and his staff. This was most helpful to me during the trouble with the Hartshead supply in 1935, which trouble was satisfactorily settled last year.

Any problems likely to affect the Ashton supply have always been freely discussed with the Water Engineer and I am in a position to assure the Council that the Ashton consumers are well safe-guarded and steps are constantly being taken to avoid all sources of contamination.

The Water Engineer has kindly supplied me with the following report:—

The water supply to Ashton is derived from the millstone-grit of the Pennine range of hills, which lies about five miles to the east of the town.

Analysis of the water prior to filtration show it to be typically moorland-derived. All pollutive indices are very low and the following bacteriological analysis made on the 29th August, 1937, of the raw water taken from Brushes Reservoir gives an indication of its purity.

Sample: Brushes Reservoir. Raw Water Main Tap.

Date:—29th August, 1937.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION.

Organisms growing on nutrient agar cultivated for 3 days @ 22° C. per 1 c.c. of water	1
Organisms growing on nutrient agar cultivated for 2 days @ 37° C. per 1 c.c. of water	2
Bacillus Coli Communis.:	
Found in	—
Not found in.....	100 c.c.s.

B. Enteritidis Sporogenes :

Found in	—
Not found in.....	100 c.es.

This analysis is not given in order to prove that the water is at all times pure, but to show that it is potentially safe for domestic use.

All water passed to the town for consumption is filtered by means of Bell's Pressure Mechanical Filters. These filters are properly housed and maintained by men trained to make simple chemical tests relative to combined alkalinity, free acidity, pH value and colour. Daily reports are forwarded to central offices for inspection, and it is possible by means of this information to maintain a constant check on the efficiency of the plants. Fortnightly samples of water taken from three points in the district of supply are forwarded to the Committee's Analyst, J. Dillwyn Joseph, A.I.C., who reports on the pH value, colour, free acidity, combined alkalinity, presence of metals, (lead, copper, etc.,) silica SiO_2 and Manganese (Mn.)

Bacteriological samples are examined by the Analyst every month and during the year 1937, 24 samples have been reported upon with the following results :—

	Average of 24 Samples	Lowest	Highest
1. Organisms growing on nutrient agar cultivated for 3 days at 20° C. per 1 c.c. of water ...	72	1	434
2. Organisms growing on nutrient agar cultivated for 2 days at 37° C. per 1 c.c. of water.....	1.5	—	5
3. Bacillus Coli Communis. :			
Found in 25 c.es.	1 sample	—	—
Found in 100 c es.	1 sample	—	—
Not found in 100 c.es.....	22 samples	—	—
4. B. Enteritidis Sporogenes :			
Found in	—	—	—
Not found in.....	24 samples	—	—

CATCHMENT AREAS.

As explained above, all water is obtained from moorland areas. The Waterworks Committee's policy during the past ten years has consisted of removing all possible sources of contamination from these areas. To this end Bill o' Jacks Tavern, famous in the history of the Yorkshire moorlands, was

closed during the year 1937 and the buildings demolished. Much public feeling was shown when the Committee's intention was made known, but this has been met by statements in the press which have satisfied the critics of this so called vandalism.

The only remaining farm on the catchment areas will be vacated in March, 1938, and the buildings removed.

DISTRIBUTION.

Water from the filter houses is stored in Knott Hill, an uncovered service reservoir of 64,000,000 gallons capacity.

During 1937, an ozonisation plant was installed at the outlet to this reservoir with entirely satisfactory results. Bacteriological samples taken from water after ozonisation show it to be sterile.

No difficulties have been experienced during the year with regard to quantity of water available, although the rainfall was five inches less than the long period average.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage :—**

This remains as previously reported on.

During the year I have had complaints concerning the pollution of the Smallshaw Brook by an overflow from the sewer.

As you are aware, this matter has been before your Committee and certain steps have been decided on to reduce the nuisance.

No serious trouble has ever arisen from this pollution, but, as I have pointed out to your Health Committee, I do not consider it safe for the contents of a sewer to have access to a stream of this nature, whether such contents are well diluted with storm water or not. The stream flows through a populous district in part of its course, and other parts traverse open spaces which are constantly used by children as playgrounds, such children having free access to the stream.

(iii) **Public Cleansing :—**

This work is carried out by your Cleansing Committee.

I reported at some length on this matter last year. The position up to the end of 1937 was unchanged.

Number of dry ashpits	76
Number of fresh water closets.....	6369
Number of waste water closets	9861
Number of moveable ash bins	13822

Sanitary Inspection of the
Area
Smoke Abatement.
Special Classes of
Premises and Occupations
subject to control by the
Local Authority.

*See the Report of the
Chief
Sanitary Superintendent
appended.*

(iv) **Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928 :—**

We have no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Schools.

The sanitary condition and water supply of the Public Elementary Schools has already been presented to you in my Annual Report to the Education Committee.

Housing Conditions.

I dealt very fully with this matter in my report for 1936.

I am glad to be able to say that during 1937 there was widespread evidence that repairs to property were being carried out.

Further, during the year 32 areas comprising 410 houses were represented to the Council as Clearance Areas.

It was hoped that the public enquiry concerning these areas would be held during the year, but it is expected now to be held early in 1938.

All this work helps the housing conditions considerably, but it must not be thought that with so much accomplished the housing problems of the town are solved.

In certain parts of the Borough there are still literally hundreds of houses where conditions are so far below modern standards as to make them most undesirable as dwellings for human beings.

In common with those that have been represented as unfit for human habitation, already these houses now under discussion show no evidence of proper maintenance over a period of many years.

At the present rate of deterioration, in a very few years you will have no option but to condemn them as has been done with those in your recent slum clearance programme.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Action taken with regard to :—

- (a) Milk supply
- (b) Meat and other Foods.
- (c) Adulteration, &c.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food is detailed in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

I have continued an active supervision over premises concerned with the manufacture of food for human consumption, and of the food products themselves.

I have been far from satisfied with many of the conditions that exist

I have presented reports to your Health Committee several times during the year, particularly with reference to some of the samples of ice-cream which were bacteriologically examined. Some of these specimens showed a truly shocking state of pollution, so bad indeed that it was obvious that some very active steps should be taken to protect the public from consuming such filthy material.

Acting on the instructions of your Health Committee, I prepared a report incorporating several suggestions for dealing with the food problem.

The Town Clerk is dealing with the legal aspect of the matter and it is hoped that the outcome will be the establishment of some measures to eliminate some of the undesirable practices now all too prevalent.

Swimming Baths.

Samples of water taken during the year for bacteriological examination were most satisfactory.

In previous samples which were not up to as high a standard as one could desire, I was led to believe that the filters probably required attention.

Since the filters have been cleared there has been no further trouble.

Disinfestation.

The same precautions were taken during the year as formerly to safeguard your new Council houses from infestation, particularly with bed bugs. All the properties of the incoming tenants from the clearance areas are treated with Hydrogen Cyanide Gas, the work being carried out by the London Fumigation Company.

In other cases, where complaints are made, spraying is tried with varying degrees of success. Unfortunately the penetrating or diffusing properties of the liquid sprays are not great, but, where the bugs are superficial, good results are obtained. The best that can be said for most of these spraying methods is that the pests are "kept down."

Section F—Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Smallpox.

No cases have been notified in the Borough during the year

Scarlet Fever.

During 1937, the epidemic began to wane, though the falling off was not nearly as rapid as I had hoped, but a definite remission is due for 1938.

Altogether there were 233 cases, of whom 174 were removed to hospital. There were no deaths.

The type was very similar to that which obtained during 1936. The majority were more severe than the very mild type we have been experiencing lately, but none of the very septic cases were met with.

Diphtheria

This disease has been widespread, both in Ashton and in the surrounding districts, throughout the year.

There were 243 cases spread fairly evenly throughout the four quarters of the year, with seven deaths.

Many of the cases were severe, but no particular clinical type predominated and the severe clinical cases, as the incidence, were spread out fairly evenly.

The action taken by your Public Health Committee to deal with the outbreak has been fully described to you. I am glad to be able to say that these measures were sufficient to prevent any concentration of the disease so that no localised epidemic broke out.

The disease, as it affected the school-children and the schools, has been dealt with already in my Annual School Report.

A very energetic attempt was made to immunise the susceptible population against diphtheria, but the people refused to respond and the results were worse than those of a similar attempt made early in 1936, when the incidence of the disease was just beginning to rise.

At several periods of the year the lack of adequate isolation hospital accommodation was felt acutely, and many cases, where hospital treatment was indicated, had to be nursed at home.

All such cases, however, were selected as carefully as possible, and the emergency measures worked very well.

I dealt with this selection of cases at considerable length in my report for 1936, and I think our experience during this year has confirmed my previous contentions.

Your Committee supplied all the serum for treatment of cases nursed at home and extra nourishments where such were indicated. Special nurses, acting under the private doctor's instructions, were employed for daily visiting, and finally your Committee arranged to give financial help in the payment of the doctors' fees. These latter arrangements were made, on a temporary basis for one year, under Section 177 of the Public Health Act of 1936, with the approval of the Minister of Health.

The laboratory facilities were adequate for dealing with swabs for purposes of confirmation of diagnosis and for helping to decide on freedom from infection after the disease.

During the year the laboratory at the District Infirmary examined and reported on 806 throat swabs and 13 nasal swabs, in addition 14 virulence tests were carried out.

Where there was much congestion in the homes and where fairly intimate contact with the patient was unavoidable, or where carelessness was suspected, prophylactic injections of anti-diphtheritic serum were offered to all susceptible contacts. In all, 52 such injections were given with complete success. The dose used was 4,000 units.

Measles.

No trouble from this disease was experienced during the year.

In the last quarter of the year 50 cases of chicken-pox and 35 cases of whooping-cough were notified by the head teachers.

Dysentery.

Outbreaks of dysentery of the severe type have been reported from various parts of the country. So far nothing of a serious nature has occurred within the Borough.

About the middle of the year an attack of suspected food-poisoning in a certain family was reported to me.

On investigation, I found the mother and three children to be affected. The history of the cases, however, and the clinical signs suggested a rather severe form of dysentery. All the local doctors were notified and, as a result of this, one further case came to light in an entirely different part of the town.

Bacteriological and serological investigations proved all five cases to be dysentery of the shiga type.

One case had to be removed to hospital, the others made an uneventful recovery at home and were allowed to resume their occupations as soon as negative stools were obtained.

A most careful investigation failed to reveal any source of infection.

Cancer.

Cancer accounted for 89 deaths. Of these, 48 were males, 41 females. The ages at which they occurred were:—

Years...	25—45	45—65	65 and upwards
Deaths	2	44	43

Number of Deaths in the years:—

1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
71	104	66	85	98	114	87	89

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during
the Year 1937 :—

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	—	—	—
Scarlat Fever	233	174	—
Diphtheria	243	179	7
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever	3	1	—
Pneumonia	97	—	93
Other diseases generally noti- fiable. Encephalitis, Lethargica..	2	—	5
Other diseases notifiable locally Cerebro Spinal Meningitis..	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	22	1	—

Prevention of Blindness.

Cases of Ophthalmia in the newly born are visited by your Health Visitors immediately upon receipt of notification. A report is made of the condition of the eyesight and the sufficiency or otherwise of treatment which is being given.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Cases			Vision un- impaired	Vision impaired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	at home	In Hospital				
5	4	1	5	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age periods.	New Cases.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.								
0-1 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1-5 ..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	1
5-15 ..	1	3	11	2	..	1	..	1
15-25 ..	10	7	3	2	5	4	..	..
25-35 ..	5	10	1	2	7	6	..	1
35-45 ..	4	4	..	1	5	1	..	..
45-55 ..	4	1	..	1	6	1	1	..
55-65 ..	8	..	..	1	8	1	..	1
65 and upwards	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Totals ..	32	26	17	10	32	14	1	4

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925:—

No action has been taken.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62:—

No action was taken under this Section.

Report of the Tuberculosis Officer for the Year 1937.

During the year 1937, eighty-five notifications of patients suffering from Tuberculosis were received. Of these, fifty-eight were notified as suffering from Tuberculosis of the Lungs, twenty-six from non-pulmonary Tuberculosis, and one combined case.

Of the fifty-eight pulmonary cases, thirty-eight were found to have tubercle bacilli in the sputum, three had negative sputum, thirteen had no sputum, and in four cases the sputum was not examined.

In the combined case, tubercle bacilli was found in the sputum.

The twenty-six non-pulmonary cases are classified as follows :—

Glands ... 10	Hip 2	Elbow..... 1	Abdomen .. 3
Spine 2	Meninges 2	Skin 2	Foot..... 1
Abscesses.. 2	Kidney.. 1		

Fourteen of the notified cases died during the year (twelve pulmonary, two non pulmonary).

Seventy-nine of the cases applied for treatment. In the remaining six cases, no application was made, for the following reasons : diagnosis not confirmed after examination (1); in Union Hospital, (1); died immediately after notification (4)

Of the patients who applied for treatment, twenty-two were sent to Sanatoria, nineteen to Pulmonary Hospital, four to General Hospital, seven to Orthopaedic Hospital; the remaining twenty-seven cases were under dispensary supervision only.

In addition to the notified cases, a number of patients are sent to the Dispensary for diagnosis. During the year two-hundred and fifty two new cases were sent for diagnosis by the Doctors, School Medical Officers, etc. The number of re-attendances of old patients at the Dispensary for supervision and arrangements for treatment, was 888

Special enquiries are made as to the health of other inmates of the house where there are patients suffering from definite Tuberculosis, and forty-two of these contacts were examined during the year.

In supervision and visiting, special attention is paid to the open cases, *i.e.*, cases where tubercle bacilli are present or have been found in the sputum. On the 1st January, 1937, there were eighty-five such cases known to be living in the district. On the 31st December, 1937, there were eighty-five positive cases living. These figures include quiescent and arrested cases.

Thirty-four of the positive cases died during the year.

Three positive cases removed from the district during the year.

The condition as to isolation of the positive cases was as follows :—

Separate room	86
Separate bed	33
Unable to have separate bed	3

Fifty-six of the positive cases were in Institution for treatment and isolation at some time during the year.

The number of positive cases living at 31st December, 1937, who had tubercle bacilli in the sputum during 1937, was forty-six. The other thirty-nine had either negative or no sputum.

Of the forty-six cases who had tubercle bacilli in the sputum during 1937, twenty had separate room, six had separate bed, one was unable to have separate bed, and nineteen were in Institutions at the end of the year.

Four housing defects were reported during the year. Of these, four had been remedied by the end of the year.

Three-hundred-and-thirty-five specimens of sputum were examined at the Ashton Laboratory during the year. Of these, sixty-eight were positive, and two-hundred-and-sixty-seven were negative.

During the year 1937, sixty-six cases were discharged from institutions as follows :

Sanatoria	23
Pulmonary Hospitals	27
General Hospitals	8
Orthopædic Hospitals	8
Non-Pulmonary Sanatoria	—
Skin Hospitals	—

The results on discharge were as follows :—

Quiescent or arrested	8
Improved	27
I.s q.	8
Worse	2
Died	18
Diagnosis not confirmed	3

During the year, there were four deaths from Tuberculosis where the cases had not been notified previously

Venereal Diseases Clinic.

The following shows the work carried out at the Venereal Diseases Clinic at the Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary and Children's Hospital during the year 1937 :—

Patients under treatment at 1st. January, 1937	206
New cases admitted during 1937.....	166
Total attendances	6204
Patients receiving treatment at the end of 1937	168
Pathological examinations	1010
Injections	1138

With reference to the new cases admitted during the year, 68 of these were persons resident in Ashton-under-Lyne.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria.

The following tables show the number of rooms in the houses affected, cases notified, removed to Hospital, treated at home, also the number of occupants and rate of attack.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

No. of Rooms in the houses affected....	2	3	4	5	6	Over 6 rooms	Total
Cases notified	3	4	32	13	6	2	60
Cases treated at Sanatorium		—	4	1	2	—	7
Cases treated at Home	3	4	28	12	4	2	53
No. of occupants at all ages	10	10	123	59	24	7	233
Attack Rate per 1,000...	0.19	0.19	2.3	1.1	0.4	0.1	4.5

46 deaths were recorded.

Death Rate 0.94.

SCARLET FEVER.

No. of rooms in the houses affected	4	5	6	Over 6 Rooms	Totals.
Cases notified ..	135	52	37	9	233
Cases removed to Hospital....	104	40	22	4	170
Cases treated at Home	29	14	15	5	63
No. of occupants at all ages	629	267	191	58	1145
Attack Rate per 1,000	12.1	5.1	3.7	1.1	22.2

One death occurred. Death rate 0.02.

DIPHTHERIA.

No. of rooms in houses affected	4	5	6	Over 6 rooms	Totals.
Cases notified	168	37	32	6	243
Cases removed to Hospital	115	27	21	5	168
Cases treated at home..	53	10	11	1	75
No. of Occupants at all ages	815	189	204	31	1239
Attack Rate per 1,000..	15.8	3.6	3.9	0.6	24.2

Eight deaths occurred. Death rate 0.16.

A RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF DEATHS AND DEATH RATE,
From the Principal Zymotic Diseases; also Phthisis and
Respiratory Diseases, from 1928 to 1937 inclusive..

NAMES OF DISEASES	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Enteric	4	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Malaria .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	5	1	11	1	6	1	10	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever	1	1	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	1
Whooping Cough...	1	14	1	2	1	1	3	...	...	...
Diphtheria includ'g	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Membranous Croup	6	2	3	3	2	2	3	5	2	8
Typhus Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	2	1	...	2	...	2	3	2	1	...
Diarrhœa {	7	7	3	1	...	9	4	3	2	5
Dysentery { .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis leth.	2	7	3	2	1	1	3	2	3	5
Cerebro Spinal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Total Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.	28	33	25	12	11	16	26	15	10	21
Death Rate from Zymotic Diseases.	0.5	0.6	0.48	0.23	0.21	0.31	0.50	0.30	0.20	0.43
Deaths Phthisis...	62	39	36	39	31	37	29	25	30	46
Rate	1.1	0.75	0.69	0.75	0.59	0.73	0.56	0.49	0.60	0.94
Deaths from Res- piratory Diseases	101	170	72	105	82	117	65	72	78	93
Rate	1.9	3.2	1.39	2.02	1.5	0.2	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.9
Deaths from other Causes	532	623	509	555	573	534	525	595	606	634
Rate	10.2	11.9	9.83	10.7	10.9	10.5	10.1	11.8	12.2	12.9
Total Deaths from all causes.....	722	865	642	711	697	704	645	705	724	794
General Death Rate from all causes...	13.8	16.6	12.4	13.7	13.3	13.9	12.8	14.06	14.6	16.2

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1937 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Estimated Population	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Net Deaths belonging to the District.				
		Un- corrected Number.	Number	Rate.*	Rate.*	of Non- residents registered in the district.	of Residents not registered in the district.	Under 1 year of age	Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1932....	51040	964	690	13.5	1094	21.4	407	38	58	85.5	697	13.3
1933....	50540	931	634	12.5	1139	22.5	435	39	41	64.6	704	13.9
1934....	51573	921	645	12.8	1068	20.7	423	50	46	71.3	645	12.8
1935....	50220	991	620	12.3	1152	23.0	447	57	41	66.1	705	14.0
1936....	49580	962	612	12.3	1141	22.9	469	52	38	62.0	724	14.6
1937 ..	48810	1053	620	12.7	1262	25.8	468	74	39	62.0	794	16.2

* Rates in columns 5, 7 and 13 are calculated per 1000 of the estimated gross population.
 Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 1983. Total population of all ages, 51040.
 Number of inhabited houses, 13,871 Average number of persons per house, 3.73. } At census
 of 1931.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Net Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age
during the Year ending 31st December, 1937.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES	{ Certified..... Uncertified	19 ..	.. ..	1 ..	3 ..	23 ..	6 ..	4 ..	2 ..	4 ..	39 ..
{ Smallpox .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Chicken pox .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Measles .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Scarlet Fever .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Diphtheria and Croup } .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Whooping Cough.....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Diarrhoea .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Enteritis		1	..	1	..	2	2	1	..	..	5
{ Tuberculous Meningitis } .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis (b) } .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases } .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Congenital Malformations (c) }		6	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	6
{ Premature Birth }		7	..	..	3	10	1	..	..	..	11
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus } .....		..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
{ Atelectasis.....		2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
{ Injury at Birth.....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Erysipelas .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Syphilis .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Rickets .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Meningitis not Tuberculous } .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Convulsions .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Gastritis .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Laryngitis .....		..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
{ Bronchitis .....		..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2
{ Pneumonia, (all forms) } .....		..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	3	7
{ Suffocation, overlying } .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
{ Other Causes.....		3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
Total.....		19	..	1	3	23	6	4	2	4	39

Net Births in the Year	Legitimate, 586 Illegitimate, 34.	Net Deaths in the Year	Legitimate, 37. Illegitimate, 2.
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SUMMARY OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND RATES IN WARDS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, DURING THE YEAR 1937.

41

WARDS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS		Deaths & Rate under 5 years		Deaths & Rate under 1 year		Zymotic Deaths and Rate	
	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.
St. Peter's	90	6·7	124	9·2	4	0·2	2	22·2	1	0·07
Portland Place.....	74	9·5	85	10·9	10	1·2	7	91·5	2	0·2
Market.....	80	6·2	121	9·4	4	0·3	4	50·0	6	0·4
St. Michael's.....	46	6·0	63	8·2	2	0·2	2	43·4	4	0·5
Hurst ... { East.....	39	8·8	52	11·7	2	0·4	2	51·2	0	0·0
{ West	45	8·0	56	10·0	1	0·2	1	22·2	3	0·5
Ward Totals and Average.....	374	7·5	501	9·9	23	0·4	18	48·1	16	0·27
Lake Hospital	206	...	209	...	17	...	15	...	2	...
Infirmary	40	...	84	...	7	...	6	...	3	...
Borough Hospital .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals and Rate for Borough.....	620	12·7	794	16·2	47	0·9	39	62·0	21	0·43
Corresponding period last year ...	612	12·3	724	14·6	52	1·0	38	62·0	10	0·20

The Rate of Infant Mortality is measured by the proportion of Deaths under One Year to Births.

BIRTHS.		DEATHS.	
Males.....	312	Males.....	404
Females....	308	Females....	390
Decrease of Population	74	Illegitimate Births...	34
		Inquests, 53	
620		794	

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District: (a)										St. Peter's Ward.		Portland Ward.		Market Ward.		Michael's Ward.		Hurst East Ward.		Hurst West Ward.		Lake Hospital.		Infirmary.		Borough Hospital.		Totals.		Transferable Deaths belonging to the District.	Total Deaths of "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District. (b)
		All Ages.	under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Under 5.	Above 5.	Under 5.	Above 5.	Under 5.	Above 5.	Under 5.	Above 5.	Under 5.	Above 5.	Under 5.	Above 5.	Under 5.	Above 5.	Under 5.	Above 5.	Under 5.	Above 5.	Males.	Females.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10																				11	12			
ALL CAUSES { Certified (c) { Uncertified	780 14	39 ..	7 ..	1 ..	19 ..	22 ..	83 1	246 5	363 8	4 ..	117 3	10 ..	74 1	4 ..	115 2	2 ..	58 3	2 ..	46 4	1 ..	55 ..	17 ..	191 1	7 ..	77 ..	.. ..	.. ..	296 8	384 6	74 ..	468 ..
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	8	1	6	..	1	1	2	..	2	2	3	5	7	1	
Influenza	29	..	..	..	..	2	6	10	11	..	4	..	2	..	6	..	5	..	4	..	2	..	4	..	2	..	..	12	17	2	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	5	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	1	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	3	2	1	2
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	46	..	..	..	1	7	21	16	1	..	9	..	6	..	12	..	4	..	4	..	4	..	6	..	1	..	..	14	32	19	4
Other Tuberculous Diseases	5	..	1	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	4	..	7
Syphilis	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	3	1	..	1
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes, Dorsalis	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	1
Cancer, Malignant Diseases	89	..	..	..	..	..	2	44	43	..	14	..	8	..	10	..	7	..	14	..	9	..	21	..	6	..	..	48	41	8	56
Diabetes	9	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	5	..	4	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	5	1	5
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	44	1	..	..	..	..	3	18	22	..	8	..	6	..	9	..	7	..	1	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Disease	235	1	..	..	1	7	13	65	148	..	40	1	32	..	43	..	28	..	14	..	3	1	6	..	2	..	..	20	24	5	45
Aneurysm	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	19	..	52	..	6	..	..	108	127	7	91
Other Circulatory Diseases	28	..	..	..	..	..	10	18	..	2	..	1	..	3	..	2	..	2	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	..
Bronchitis	33	2	..	..	..	..	2	14	15	..	8	1	3	1	3	..	5	..	2	..	3	..	12	..	3	..	..	14	14	1	15
Pneumonia (all forms)	50	7	3	..	..	..	8	19	13	..	3	3	2	..	2	1	2	..	2	..	2	..	4	..	4	..	..	12	21	1	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	10	..	1	..	..	..	1	3	5	..	2	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	37	13	1	71
Peptic Ulcer	6	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	7	1	12
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	4	2	..	1
Appendicitis	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	5	..	1	3
Cirrhosis of Liver	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	2	2	..	..
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1
Other Digestive Diseases	21	..	..	1	..	1	4	15	..	3	..	1	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	3	..	..	..	2	5	1	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	13	..	..	..	..	1	5	7	..	3	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	4	..	5	..	..	14	7	2	19	
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	2	..	..	3	10	1	20	
Other Puerperal Causes	4	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	23	21	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	4	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	10	..	3	3	..	..	..	15	8	3	19
Senility	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	..	4	..	5	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	12	..	9
Suicide	5	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	..	2
Other violence	27	1	..	..	2	2	4	5	13	..	4	..	2	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	7	..	..	..	14	13	4	29
Other Defined Diseases	58	1	..	..	4	1	8	24	20	..	9	..	4	..	8	..	3	..	2	..	3	1	18	..	10	..	..	32	26	6	46
Causes ill-defined or unknown	
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above) Smallpox, Poliomyelitis, Polioencephalitis	
Total	794	39	7	1	19	22	84	251	371	4	120	10	75	4	117	2	61	2	50	1	55	17	192	7	77	..	..	404	390	74	468
										M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			Inward Transfers.	Total.
BIRTHS										50	40	35	39	38	42	22	24	25	14	25	20	91	115	21	19	312	308				620

Included in the above figures, are the 74 transferable deaths belonging to the district.

DISEASE.	(3)—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.—CASES NOTIFIED.														Total Cases Notified in each Locality (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the District.										Total Deaths.	Hospital.	
	Total Cases at all Ages.	YEARS.														1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		Total cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.
		Un-der 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	and over	St. Peter's Ward	Port-land Ward	Mar-ket Ward	Mich-ael's Ward	Hurst East Ward	Hurst West Ward	Lake Hos-pital	In-firmary	Boro' Hos-pital					
Smallpox.....	
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup	243	..	3	6	17	13	107	58	23	15	..	1	..	76	48	42	25	11	34	2	5	..	8	184	..		
Erysipelas	25	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	5	3	5	9	5	2	3	4	2	2	6	1	..	1	8	..
Scarlet Fever	233	..	1	7	11	27	90	67	16	13	1	..	..	67	29	59	17	25	32	4	..	..	1	172	..
Enteric Fever including Paratyphoid	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Poliomyelitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trench Fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	5	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	5	3	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia	73	3	7	3	1	3	8	4	5	12	9	19	5	22	11	14	7	11	11	3	..	..	47	..	..
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia.....	18	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	6	3	6	1	3	..	..	4	5	..	3	3	..	..	3	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis..	60	..	..	..	..	2	2	8	27	8	12	1	14	8	14	6	3	11	3	1	..	..	46	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis	30	..	1	..	..	2	11	3	4	6	1	2	..	7	3	7	6	3	3	..	1	..	5	..	..
Any other diseases notifiable in district ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles and German Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa, &c., (under 2 years) .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken Pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Any other diseases Puerperal Pyrexia.....	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	18	2	..	..	..	2	1	1	2	1	..	14	1	..	..	10	..
Influenza.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals.....	727	8	12	17	29	45	222	137	60	106	28	47	16	200	107	146	74	57	97	36	10	..	116	377	..		

**Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for
the Year 1937.**

To the Worshipful the Mayor, Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen.

I beg to submit my Sixth Annual Report for your consideration.

Housing work during the year was again one of the major activities of my Department. 18 areas comprising 292 houses and other buildings were in 1936 declared to be Clearance Areas within the meaning of the Housing Acts and Clearance Orders made by the Corporation. These proposals were the subject of an Official Inquiry in January by an Inspector of the Ministry of Health. These Orders were duly confirmed with very few exclusions (7 dwellinghouses or other buildings).

In addition preliminary surveys were made concerning areas comprising upwards of 400 dwellings. Numerous details and particulars were obtained and Clearance Orders were made by the Council and submitted to the Ministry of Health for confirmation. There were 32 Areas and these included 400 dwellinghouses, 5 dwellinghouses and shops, 3 dwelling-vans and 2 lock-up shops.

The Inquiry regarding these proposals had not been held at the end of the year.

The re-housing of tenants from houses in the confirmed areas proceeded during the year, but owing to the time allowed by the Orders not having expired, only 41 dwellings were vacated and the tenants re-housed.

The furniture and effects were treated with Hydro Cyanide Gas and the bedding etc. steam disinfected at the Town's Yard. A change of clothing was collected and disinfected for each person displaced. They in turn visited the Public Baths where the collected clothing was waiting for them and the clothes discarded were collected and disinfected. We have found no difficulty in getting tenants to agree to this procedure and only in very exceptional cases has any deviation from the rule been allowed and in every case for quite legitimate reasons, such as illness, old age etc.

This procedure might at first sight seem elaborate, but I believe that the tenants themselves appreciated that everything possible was being done to ensure their personal comfort in the new surroundings, and whatever may be the ultimate result the Corporation I think can congratulate themselves upon the very adequate and satisfactory arrangements made for dealing with the matter.

20 houses were dealt with as Individually Unfit Dwellings and the necessary action taken.

Very little progress was made in the re-housing of overcrowded tenants, but the fixing of the permitted numbers for all houses dealt with under the Act has resulted in a fairly large number being de crowded in the normal course of removal and exchange. There is still however a large number of houses overcrowded, particularly by large families where alternative accommodation at suitable rentals is very difficult to obtain.

In view of the coming into operation of the Public Health Act 1936, the dustbin conversion scheme was for all practicable purposes suspended during the year, only 288 dustbins being supplied in 1937. The whole position was reviewed by the Council and it was decided that in future and in those cases where dustbins had not been supplied under the scheme above referred to, bins should be supplied at a rental of 1/6 per annum.

Meat and Food Inspection has again occupied a prominent place in the work of the Department, and a perusal of the Tables dealing with this matter will give some idea of the work involved.

I am pleased to report that there have been no changes in the staff during the year. Frequent changes are very detrimental to the efficiency of a Department and do not tend to that continuity of administration which is essential to the successful carrying out of the work.

I should again like to express my thanks for the valuable services rendered by the Additional Sanitary Inspectors, during the year. Practically every Sunday in the year and many hours of extra duty after ordinary office hours have to be worked by your staffs, and I cannot speak too highly of the willing and ungrudging manner in which they have responded to the numerous calls made upon them.

I am greatly indebted to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their unfailing consideration, to the Town Clerk for his continued interest in the work of the Department and for the courtesy he has at all times extended to me, and to the Medical Officer of Health for his strong support and encouragement during the year.

Yours respectfully,

C. SYKES HANDFORTH.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Ashton-under-Lyne.

June, 1938.

Summary.

Details of Inspections made and Work carried out during 1937.

Number of Nuisances reported and found (excluding dust bin scheme)	1350
" " abated	1342
Preliminary Notices and Letters served with respect to Nuisances	216
Notices sent <i>re</i> infectious diseases	482
Number of cases removed to Infectious Diseases Hospitals	363
" houses disinfected	549
" articles removed and disinfected	6527
" visits to houses <i>re</i> infectious diseases	1518
Number of visits to premises <i>re</i> defective and choked W.C's, W.W.C's, slop	
" " sinks, waste and soil pipes	1948
" " under Housing Acts	1612
" " common lodging-houses, furnished rooms and dwelling vans	60
" " slaughter-houses.....	1309
" " cowsheds, milkshops, refreshment houses, ice cream makers and bakehouses	202
" " Factories and Workshops.....	70
" " Offensive Trade Premises.....	12
" " <i>re</i> rat infestations	44
" " under the Shops Acts	231
Number of smoke observations taken	47
" " Samples taken under Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act	108
" " notices and letters served <i>re</i> Ashpit Con- version Scheme	45
" " Dust Bins supplied	288
" " visits to premises in connection with Ashpit Scheme.....	426

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops & Workplaces

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecution (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	53	3	..
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ..	17	..	..
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises) ..	6	..	..
Total	76	3	..

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	7	7	..	..
Want of Ventilation	1	1	..	..
Overcrowding .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Want of drainage of floors	..	..	..	..
Other nuisances	1	1	..	..
Sanitary Accommodation—				
insufficient .. .. .	..	..	..	..
unsuitable or defective ..	23	22	..	..
not separate for sexes ..	..	..	..	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	..	..	..	..
Other offences .. .. .	..	..	..	..
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total	32	31	..	..

FOOD SUPPLY.

The number of cowkeepers in the district is 18.

Fifty-seven samples were taken for examination for Bacterial Content and examination for the presence of B.Coli an increase of 27 samples as compared with the previous year.

The samples were as follows :-

MILKS.	Tuberculin Tested "Certified"	5
	Tuberculin Tested	3
	Accredited	3
	Pasteurised	12
	Sterilised	1
	Ordinary	18
OTHER FOODS.		
	Ice Cream	16
		<hr/> 58

Table No. 1 gives the results of these examinations. Generally speaking the milks were found to be satisfactory, although in one case, that of a "Tuberculin Tested" Milk the Bacterial Count was very high, as was also the result of the examination of a "Pasteurised" Milk.

The Ice Cream samples proved to be unsatisfactory in 8 cases and the remaining 8 cases were considered satisfactory.

A considerable amount of time and labour has been expended during the year on this work. In some cases repeated tests and investigations were made, especially regarding the ice cream samples and greatly improved results were obtained. Generally speaking, the absence of proper sterilization was found to be the cause of the trouble, and it cannot be too strongly urged that however scrupulously clean the milk may be this is no substitute for proper and thorough sterilization of the utensils. Washing with hot water is not sufficient.

Twenty-four samples were taken for examination for the presence of the Tubercle Bacillus. Three of these samples were reported to be "positive." Notification was forwarded to the Lancashire County Council as required under the Milk and Dairies Act 1915, and a veterinary examination was made on their instructions. Two of the "positive" samples referred to cattle at the same farm and the other case returned a "negative" result when the samples taken on behalf of the County Council were obtained.

The animal found in the first case was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

Table No. 1.

<u>No. of Sample</u>	<u>Type of Milk.</u>	<u>Total Bacteria per c.c.</u>	<u>B. Coli present in 1/100 c.c.</u>
1	Tuberculin Tested "Certified"	1,050	Absent
2	" " "	1,270	"
3	" " "	380	"
4	" " "	860	"
5	" " "	3,700	Present
6	Tuberculin Tested	260	Absent
7	" "	38,000	Present
8	" "	1,120,000	"
9	Accredited	9,300	Absent
10	"	1,670	"
11	"	3,000	"
12	Pasteurised	2,200	Present
13	"	13,800	"
14	"	1,385	"
15	"	6,050	"
16	"	267,500	"
17	"	99, 500	"
18	"	3,400	Absent
19	"	5,400	Present
20	Ordinary	2,500	Present
21	Pasteurised but before cooling	8,050	Absent
22	Pasteurised and cooled	11,100	Present
23	Ordinary	1,583	"
24	Pasteurised but before cooling	490	Absent
25	Pasteurised and cooled	730	Present
26	Ordinary	1,410	Absent
27	Sterilized	3,550	Absent

Methylene Blue Test.

28	Ordinary	Satisfactory	
29	"	"	
30	"	"	
31	"	"	Coliform Bacillus present in 1 tube.
32	Ordinary	Satisfactory	
33	"	"	
34	"	"	
35	"	"	
36	"	"	
37	"	"	
38	"	"	
39	"	"	
40	"	"	
41	"	"	
42	"	"	

43	Ice Cream	Satisfactory	
44	"	Grossly polluted	
45	"	Satisfactory.	
46	"	Grossly polluted	
47	"	Considered satisfactory.	
48	"	Counts excessively high, but no evidence of gross pollution	
49	"	Counts very high, but Coli and Enterococcus Counts are satisfactory	
50	"	Counts high, otherwise results are satisfactory	
51	"	Satisfactory.	
52	"	Satisfactory.	
53	"	B. Coli. and total counts are too high.	
54	"	B. Coli. and total counts are too high.	
55	"	Satisfactory.	
56	"	Considered satisfactory.	
57	"	Heavily polluted.	

Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936.

The following licences have been issued by the Corporation under the above Act:—

- 1, Pasteuriser's licence to use the designation "Pasteurised".
- 2, Supplementary licences to use the designation "Pasteurised".
- 5, Dealers' licences to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested".
- 1, Dealer's Licence to use the designation "T.T." (Certified).
- 1, Supplementary Licence to use the designation "T.T." (Certified).
- 1, Supplementary Licence to use the designation "Accredited".

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act 1928.

During the year 108 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst and the following table gives details of the samples taken.

Table No. 2.

Whisky	7
Milk	81
Brandy	2
Sausage	9
Rum	1
Cream	4
Potted Meat	3
Salmon Paste	1
Total.....	<hr/> 108 <hr/>

It will be observed that 81 milk samples were taken compared with 71 in the previous year.

The average proportion of fat in the 81 samples of milk was 3.78 compared with 3.75 in 1936 and the non-fatty solids averaged 8.86 compared with 8.84 in the previous year.

The number of samples of all kinds shows little variation, but the samples of milk submitted to the Public Analyst has shown an increase during recent years viz :

1931.....	12
1932.....	42
1933.....	60
1934.....	57
1935.....	61
1936.....	71
1937.....	81

The attached table gives details of the samples found upon analysis to be adulterated.

PARTICULARS OF ADULTERATION.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Sample Article</u>	<u>Adulteration or Offence</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
595	New Milk	Deficient in fat 24%	Fined 20/- & £3/3/- costs
627	"	" 11%	Informal Sample

MEAT INSPECTION.

Meat inspection has again occupied a considerable proportion of the time of your staffs during the year, 16,033 animals being inspected compared with 14,640 in 1936.

Eleven cows, one bullock, one heifer and six pigs were surrendered as being unfit for human consumption. Included in the eleven cows surrendered were seven brought into the district and slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order.

The usual tables are appended and give some interesting data. 48 bovine heads and tongues were found to be affected with Tuberculosis, a percentage of 2.09 as compared with 2.22 in 1935 and 2.7 in 1936. The number of pigs' heads so affected was 280, a percentage of 9.89 as against 7.5 in 1936, and 8.78 in 1935.

There appears to be little variation in the quantity of offal surrendered and destroyed and the slight increase in the number of pigs' heads surrendered does not denote any deterioration in the quality of the animals killed in the area.

The number of slaughterhouses in the town is 12, four being licensed and eight registered.

Tables Nos. 3 and 4 give the amount of meat and offals surrendered during the year.

TABLE No. 3

Carcases with all organs condemned as totally unfit for human consumption.

<u>Animal</u>	<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Accident</u>	<u>Inflammatory Diseases</u>	<u>Other Condition</u>
Cows	11	-	2	-
Bullocks	1	-	-	-
Heifers	1	-	-	-
Pigs	6	1	-	-
Sheep	-	7	-	1

Carcases partially condemned as unfit for human consumption.

<u>Animal</u>	<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Accident</u>	<u>Inflammatory Diseases</u>	<u>Other Conditions</u>
Cows	7	-	-	-
Heifers	2	1	-	-
Bullocks	1	-	-	-
Pigs	2	-	-	-

TABLE No. 4

Various Organs condemned as unfit for Human Consumption,

	<u>Heads</u>	<u>Tongues</u>	<u>Lungs</u>	<u>Livers</u>	<u>Stomachs</u>	<u>Hearts</u>	<u>Spleens</u>	<u>Mesenteries</u>	<u>Intestines</u>	<u>Udders</u>	<u>Kidneys</u>	<u>Diaphragms</u>	<u>Omentum</u>
Tuberculosis.													
Bovines	45	45	41	29	6	8	3	27	7	16	-	1	1
Pigs	280	280	106	121	20	97	-	220	22	-	-	95	-
Inflammatory Diseases.													
Bovines	-	-	14	15	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Pigs	-	-	15	9	1	6	-	3	1	-	1	-	-
Sheep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parasitic Diseases.													
Bovines	6	7	16	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pigs	-	-	-	20	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Sheep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases & Conditions.													
Bovines	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pigs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sheep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The following table gives some idea of the work involved in this particular branch of my Department.

No. of visits to slaughterhouses during 1937 ...	1309
" " food premises and markets	650
No. of carcasses inspected :	
Cattle.....	2154
Sheep and Lambs	11040
Pigs	2839
Total	16,033

The total weight of meat and offals destroyed during the year as diseased, unsound and unfit for the food of man was 23,470 lbs or 10 tons, 9 cwts, 2 qrs, 6 lbs.

RAT REPRESSION.

National Rat Week was celebrated in the Borough from Nov. 1st to Nov. 6th, 1937. The occupiers of slaughter-houses, factories, workshops, food preparing premises etc., were all circularised calling their attention to the urgent necessity of taking the requisite steps to free their premises from rats and mice. A special circular was drawn up and the Director of Education very kindly arranged to have same brought to the notice of Headmasters and Headmistresses with a view to drawing the attention of their senior pupils to the matter.

Special steps were also taken on properties under the control of the Corporation.

Contagious Diseases of Animals.

For a short period during the year, Ashton in common with many other parts of the country was subject to the Foot and Mouth (Regulation of Movement) Order of 1938.

Conversion Scheme.

During the year, 288 dust bins were supplied under the above scheme, a total of 7 953 distributed by the Corporation since the inception of the scheme.

In view of the coming into operation of the Public Health Act, 1936, it was not deemed advisable to press forward with the scheme and in October, 1937, the Council decided to discontinue their former practice and to adopt a scheme whereby bins should be supplied to dwellings on the basis of an annual charge of 1/6d. per year, a scheme which is now in operation.

Smoke Abatement.

During the year 47 half-hourly observations were taken and the usual notices were served in those cases where the permissible omission of black smoke was exceeded.

The powers possessed under the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926, and later by the Public Health Act,

1936, are intended to be used for the purpose of improving the atmosphere in our towns without in any way hampering or injuring industry, and it is the aim of your Sanitary Inspectors to carry this out in the fullest sense. Much can be done to avoid black smoke at very little cost. Proper firing - "often and little" is a good maxim - will do a great deal. Side firing, feeding one side of the furnace only is a good policy. The opening of the air grids in the fire doors for a minute or two after firing admits the extra air necessary to burn the gases driven off after each charge of fresh coal. These are minor points which if attended to will have beneficial results, but in my opinion the chief factor in smoke prevention is temperature. High temperature is absolutely necessary, and if this condition is fulfilled the maximum amount of heat will be derived from the fuel used, the volatiles will be consumed as they are driven off and there will be no waste owing to the heat giving properties of the gases being forced up the flues without being consumed.

Strict attention to a few simple rules will help to reduce considerably the smoke evil.

Five conditions are necessary for the complete and smokeless combustion of coal :—

1. Sufficient supply of air.
2. Sufficient draught.
3. Sufficiently high temperature.
4. A thorough mixing of the products of combustion and the air admitted to the furnace.
5. A sufficient length of time.

and of these five, temperature is perhaps the most important.

To interest the boiler house employee in these and kindred matters is well worth the expenditure of a little time and money, and your Inspectors in their conversations with the stokers are constantly trying to interest them in what is perhaps the most interesting side of their work, and when we can get them to follow the various stages of combustion, to understand the reason why certain things must be done at a certain time, then I think we shall have done a little towards solving this great problem.

It is very necessary, of course, that a boiler plant should be well above the work it has to perform and I think it will be generally agreed that one of the greatest causes of smoke is the forcing of boilers beyond their powers. Where this occurs it is practically impossible to prevent smoke, and no matter how careful a fireman may be, or how strictly he may adhere to the fundamental principles laid down for the non-production of smoke he will fail in his purpose.

Employers can do much to help in this matter. After all, economy in the boiler house means a great deal to them, and if stokers can be encouraged to study their problems from the theoretical point of view as well as from the practical standpoint it will be a paying proposition for all parties.

Housing Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) - - - - -	379
(1) By local authority - - - - -	208
(2) By other local authorities - - - - -	Nil.
(3) By other bodies or persons - - - - -	171

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—

(1) By the local Authority (included under (a) (1) above) - - - - -	208
(2) By other bodies or persons (included under (a) (3) above - - - - -	Nil.

1. *Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) - - - - -	221
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1612
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. - - - - -	200
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1570
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation - - - - -	93
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation - - - - -	128

(2) *Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers - - - - -	141
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(3) *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(a).—Proceedings under sections 9, 10, 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|------|
| (a) by owners | - | - | - | Nil. |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | - | - | - | Nil. |
- (b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | - | - | - | 3 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | | | | |
| (a) by owners | - | - | - | 3 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | - | - | - | Nil. |
- (c)—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | - | - | - | 15 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | - | - | - | 6 |
- (d)—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | - | - | - | 2 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | - | - | - | Nil. |
- (4) *Overcrowding.*
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|------|
| (a)—(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | - | - | - | 648 |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein | - | - | - | 674 |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein | - | - | - | 3781 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year- | - | - | - | Nil |
| (c)—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | - | - | - | 19 |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases | - | - | - | 130 |

